

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 179

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding bone marrow failure diseases.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 16, 2005

Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself and Mr. BILIRAKIS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding bone marrow failure diseases.

Whereas every year approximately 20,000 to 30,000 Americans are diagnosed with aplastic anemia, myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS), or paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH);

Whereas bone marrow failure diseases can strike any person anywhere in the world, regardless of age, gender, race, or ethnicity;

Whereas the highest incidence of these diseases occurs with people age 60 or older;

Whereas the number of cases of these diseases will increase each year as the American population continues to age;

Whereas bone marrow failure diseases occur when the bone marrow stops making enough healthy blood cells or produces poorly functioning blood cells;

Whereas the causes of aplastic anemia, MDS, and PNH remain unknown, but are linked to toxins and viruses that commonly occur in our society and both prescription and over-the-counter medications;

Whereas patients diagnosed with these diseases also suffer from anemia, bleeding, infections, and thrombosis;

Whereas most treatments for bone marrow failure diseases are experimental, and there is no single cure for these diseases;

Whereas the Aplastic Anemia & MDS International Foundation is the Nation's oldest and largest patient advocacy and support network for individuals suffering from bone marrow diseases; and

Whereas the Congress as an institution and Members of Congress as individuals are in unique positions to help raise public awareness about bone marrow failure diseases and to support the fight against these diseases: Now, therefore, be it

- 1       *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2       *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—
- 3               (1) all Americans should gain a better under-
- 4       standing of bone marrow failure diseases and their
- 5       symptoms;
- 6               (2) all individuals diagnosed with bone marrow
- 7       failure diseases and their families should have access
- 8       to a variety of treatment and counseling options;

1           (3) families coping with bone marrow failure  
2       diseases should be linked to support networks and  
3       counseling and information services provided by non-  
4       profit organizations like the Aplastic Anemia & MDS  
5       International Foundation; and

6           (4) the Federal Government should—

7                (A) endeavor to raise awareness about the  
8       importance of the early detection of, and proper  
9       treatment for, bone marrow failure diseases;

10               (B) provide adequate funding for research  
11       into the causes of, and improved treatment for,  
12       bone marrow failure diseases;

13               (C) engage in such public health initiatives  
14       as surveillance, education, and awareness of  
15       bone marrow failure diseases; and

16               (D) continue to consider ways to improve  
17       access to, and the quality of, health care serv-  
18       ices for detecting and treating bone marrow  
19       failure diseases.

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